

SITUATION REPORT NO. 3
INCIDENT NO. 2005-075
DATE: June 6, 2005 Time: 5:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Severe Summer Storms and Flooding** – Severe thunderstorms with heavy rain, hail and high winds moved through portions of North Dakota beginning May 9, 2005, and continuing.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) issued flood watches for north central, northwest and eastern North Dakota for the evening of June 6. The forecast called for a large complex of thunderstorms to develop this evening over western and central North Dakota and spread north and east overnight. Thunderstorms are expected to cause torrential rains, flooding roads and low-lying areas, and produce large hail in the following counties: Bottineau, Burke, Divide, McHenry, McKenzie, Mountrail, Pierce, Renville, Rolette, Ward and Williams. Flash flooding is also expected in eastern North Dakota. Forecasts call for the threat for thunderstorms containing heavy rain to persist through late June 7 across the entire region as several more thunderstorm complexes move through producing heavy rain and flooding. Most areas will receive from one to three inches of rain through late June 7 with higher amounts near localized persistent thunderstorms. The ground is saturated across most of the area and the expected rain will cause some flash flooding late tonight through the night of June 7 and lead to river flooding.

Additionally, the NWS issued a tornado watch until 11:00 p.m. MDT on June 6 for the following counties : Adams, Billings, Bowman, Burke, Divide, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger, McKenzie, Mountrail, Slope, Stark and Williams.

Storm activity with heavy rainfall continued through the June 3-5 weekend, following pathways similar to recent storms. Reports by the NWS and emergency managers indicated storm activity aggravated ongoing flooding in some areas.

On June 4, the NWS reported up to four inches of rain fell June 3 near Sibley in Barnes County. Up to one inch of rain was reported in other areas of Barnes

County and Traill County. Rainfall in Pembina measured 0.65 inches. The Benson County area received up to 1.5 inches of rain while 0.78 inches fell in Griggs County.

Streams and rivers responded to the heavy rainfall as the NWS issued periodic flood statements. Meteorologists reported the Red River of the North is expected to rise near flood stage by mid-week at Fargo and Wahpeton. On June 6, the Red River at Fargo was reported at 16.76 feet, flood stage is 17 feet; the Red River at Wahpeton was reported at 8.87 feet, flood stage is 10 feet.

Moderate flooding was forecasted for the lower Souris River Basin, including the cities of Towner, Bantry and Westhope. Last week's heavy rainfall caused river levels to rise rapidly. NWS reported the heaviest rainfall fell just downstream of Minot and near the Canadian border in Bottineau and McHenry Counties, with rainfall amounts ranging from two to six inches. Upstream of Velva, levels are receding. The Souris River crested at 50.5 feet on June 4 at Towner, where flood stage is 52 feet. On June 6, the Souris River at Bantry measured 8.84 feet; flood stage is 11 feet; the river at Towner measured 53.80 feet, flood stage is 52 feet; and the river at Westhope measured 10.62 feet; flood stage is 10 feet.

The State Operations Center (SOC) received reports of storm activity from the following counties:

Barnes County

On June 6, the County Emergency Manager provided official reports of four inches of rain and unofficial reports of up to seven inches of rain have flooded homes and campgrounds at Lake Ashtabula, washed out roads and caused crop damage in the northern part of Barnes County. Reports indicated culverts were washed out on township roads, and one other road under water. Gravel roads accessing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) campgrounds are washed out and most of the gravel was washed off campground parking pads. Near Sibley, farm fields are submerged causing crop damage with water encroaching within four inches of the roadbed of County Road 21. One house in Sibley is flooded on the main floor, one house is on the lowest living level, and one business is flooded. Massive erosion occurred at the Lee Subdivision along Lake Ashtabula. Damage assessments are currently underway.

Bottineau County

On June 6, the County Emergency Manager reported the boil order for the city of Souris has been lifted, and the water buffalo has been returned to the N.D. National Guard. Last week, the rural water system was shut down to prevent sewage contamination due to excessive overland flooding.

Steele County

On June 3, approximately four inches of rain fell within two hours on already saturated ground. The Emergency Manager reported two bridges were washed out and water was flowing over N.D. Highway 32, as well as several township and county roads. Several homeowners reported water in their basements and

standing water was reported throughout the county. In addition, several homes have water in their basements. County officials are currently assessing damages.

Ward County

Officials are receiving additional damage reports from homeowners as a result of last week's storm activity. The County Engineer estimates over 10 bridges are heavily damaged and, pending further study, may require replacement or significant repair. He also indicated that any additional rainfall will quickly cause additional significant damage. The County Engineer and Sheriff's Department continue to assess damages. Senior Local Emergency Planning Committee members met June 5 to discuss damages. The Ward County Emergency Operations Center will not be reactivated at this time; however, additional rainfall will prompt a recall.

Wells County

On June 3, law enforcement reported a heavy downpour of 0.75 inches fell within approximately 10 minutes in Harvey, flooding the city's underpass and streets.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: Agencies include fire departments, dispatch centers, emergency medical services, law enforcement, county and city maintenance crews, county and city engineers, public works and emergency management officials, rural electric cooperatives, local health districts, private sector businesses and citizens.

STATE: Agencies monitoring conditions include the Governor's Office, N.D. National Guard, State Radio Communications, N.D. Highway Patrol, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Department of Health, N.D. State Electrical Board, State Water Commission and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management.

FEDERAL: Agencies monitoring conditions include the National Weather Service (NWS) which issued periodic weather reports and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the Department of Homeland Security.

5. **VOLUNTEER ACTION:** In Ward County, the Mid Dakota Chapter of the American Red Cross location will serve as a central point for distribution of residential cleanup information and cleanup kits. The chapter has also set up a hotline, 701-857-1531, for damage reports. The Salvation Army will be supplying home cleanup kits, and the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension Service will be providing cleanup literature.
6. **MAJOR ACTIONS:** After Lake Ashtabula rose six inches in four hours in response to heavy rainfall on June 3, the USACE officials increased Baldhill Dam releases from 300 cubic feet per second (cfs), which is already 250 cfs above normal, to 900 cfs that evening. On June 4, USACE officials opened the gates to 1,450 cfs. Lake Ashtabula rose from 1,266 feet mean sea level (msl) to 1,266.87 feet msl. The Emergency Manager indicated minor flood control actions occur in Valley City at 2,000 cfs.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director